

Above Knee Amputation

Bone

Heterotopic bone

Interestingly, very early formation of heterotopic bone is evident at the external fixator pin sites. This bone must be excised.

Dissect through periosteum

The goal is to dissect down to the level of the periosteum, then to dissect the soft tissues proximally off of the femur, and finally to divide through the periosteum at the level of the planned bone cut.

Cobb elevator

Use the cobb elevator to clear soft tissue off of the femur circumferentially.

Use the cobb to work through the very thick posterior fascial attachments on the femur, the linea aspera.

Reveal attachment of adductor muscle

Elevate the distal medial skin and subq to reveal the attachment of the adductor muscle. Preserve the adductor longer than the other muscles so an adductor myodesis can be performed over the end of the femur.

Dissect the adductor off the femur

Large retractors

Large retractors hold the quadriceps up and out of the way.

Divide femur

Use oscillating saw to divide femur perpendicular to its long axis. Cool with saline.

Divide the posterior tissues

Resect more heterotopic bone

Rasp bone to smooth edges

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